

**Pribilofs Restoration Advisory Board
City Hall Council Chambers
St. Paul, Alaska
Friday, September 17, 2004**

Meeting Notes¹

PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Anthony Philemonoff (co-chair, TDX)
Mr. Bernie Denno (co-chair, NOAA)
Jason Bourdukofsky, St. Paul at large
Aquilina Lestenkof, St. Paul at large
John R. Mercurief, City of St. Paul
Phil Zavadil, Tribal Government
Louis Howard, ADEC
Petty Officer Evans, Coast Guard
Mark Ridgeway, Coast Guard
Ellen Clark, NOAA
John Lindsay, NOAA
Minh Trinh, NOAA
Paula Souik, NOAA
Dave Winandy, NOAA
Jim Wright, NOAA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- The meeting was called to order at 8:47am.
- A Sign-in Sheet was circulated and introductions were made.
- Since Victor Mercurief was not present, Anthony Philemonoff acted as the Island co-chair.

DISTRIBUTION OF JUNE 18, 2004, RAB NOTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

- Meeting notes were approved as is by the RAB.
- Members reported receiving emails in advance without a problem.

Q: Is NOAA required to place monitoring wells on the National Weather Service Property?
A: No, but some have been installed in response to the community's request at the last RAB.

UPDATE ON SEASON'S FIELD ACTIVITIES

Blubber Dump

- The final two hot spots were excavated. Confirmation samples indicate that remaining soil is below cleanup levels.
- All debris was removed from the site except for an eight ft. diameter tire, a welded container used to haul soil, and a Conex container floor frame that was deposited on TDX

¹ Final RAB meeting notes and materials presented at the RAB meetings will be posted to the following website: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/pribilof/rab/welcome.htm>

property by unknown persons after cleanup was complete. NOAA does not know where the Conex container floor frame came from and does not plan to remove it.

Ice House Lake

- A small excavation was completed to remove one hot spot.
- 22 cubic yards of soil were excavated.
- Confirmation samples came back clean and the area was backfilled with clean soil.

Lukanin Bay

- 1,919 cubic yards of soil were excavated. Some metal debris still remains buried under more than two feet of soil on the site.
- Confirmation samples show that soil left in place is below cleanup levels.
- This area has been backfilled.

Diesel Seep Site

- The cleanup standard here is not a set DRO level; instead the cleanup standard is to remove soil that has the potential to cause a sheen in the navigable waterways of the channel.
- Concrete from the demolished drum storage pad foundation was used as backfill and petroleum contaminated soil (PCS) from within the foundation was removed and transported to the stockpile on Tract 42.
- Clean dredged materials from the Harbor Improvement Project were placed in a stockpile area and used as backfill.
- Contaminated soil is being removed to a depth of approximately 3 feet below the mean lower low tide (-3), although it is difficult to tell exactly how deep the contamination is.
- Sacks filled with GAC (granulated activated carbon) were placed in a trench along 120 feet of the reconstructed shoreline. This barrier is intended to absorb petroleum contamination as groundwater flows through it.
- Shoreline reconstruction plan shown. The area was excavated to (-2) then base rock, excavated by NOAA from NOAA's scoria pit on Telegraph Hill and weathered rock excavated by the Corps of Engineers during the Harbor Improvement Project, was used to reconstruct the shoreline. A core layer of rock and scoria (from Telegraph Hill) was installed then faced with a layer of filter fabric to retain fines. The fabric was then covered by the weather rock which serves as the final, visible surface of the reconstructed shoreline. The top of the shoreline will be revegetated.

Comment: Many thanks to Michael Baldwin for doing such a good job reconstructing the shoreline.

Q: Why was this project awarded to Kelly Ryan instead of TDX?

A: TDX and BSE were under a proposed debarment and NOAA was not able to enter into a contract with them. Also Kelly Ryan has bigger equipment that was on-island and available. This is a big project and NOAA is under time constraints to get the job completed. NOAA's first priority is to complete the remediation and balance this priority with using local labor. Kelly Ryan has employed local labor which has been a great help in getting this job completed.

Q: Will the GAC bags be removed?

A: No, it is not necessary to remove the bags. If there is a future need to replace the GAC bags (i.e., they become saturated) it could be done.

Q: Has the whole shoreline reconstruction been completed?

A: Yes, except for revegetation. A new boom has been installed. The shoreline was reconstructed down to (-2).

Q: Will the boom be left in place?

A: NOAA will wait to see how well the excavation goes before removing the boom. John Lindsay will determine when and if the boom is to be removed.

Q: What is the length of the reconstructed shoreline? Will the GAC bags run the length of this new shoreline?

A: The reconstructed shoreline is 250 feet. The GAC bags were only be placed along 120 feet of the shoreline in the area where the contamination was found.

Q: Was it helpful to have the channel blocked off?

A: Yes, this was a huge asset to working on the project. If it wasn't blocked, the channel velocity would have caused the sheen to get outside of the boom.

Q: Is there a known lifespan of the GAC bags?

A: To determine this you need to determine the concentration of contamination in the water as well as the velocity at which the water moves through the area. These factors allow you to determine the lifespan of the GAC bags.

UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER SAMPLING ACTIVITIES

- Completed four quarters of groundwater sampling between 2003 and 2004. The consultant is analyzing the results and plans to submit a draft report to NOAA in November 2004.
- This last round of quarterly sampling will be combined with 2001-2002 data. NOAA will assess the data, and will likely request permission from the State to reduce the number of wells monitored as well as the monitoring frequency.
- The contractor will also complete a groundwater flow analysis in the Village and Diesel Seep areas. This data will be used to update a conceptual site model. Additional hydro dataloggers will be installed this fall.

Q: Where did the Army Corps of Engineers dredging stop? It does not seem that they completed half of the entire project.

A: The dredging never made its way down to the NOAA site.

LANDSPREADING PETROLEUM CONTAMINATED SOILS

- The current PCS stockpile at Tract 42 is approximately 1.4 miles from the National Weather Service property.
- NOAA is using approximately 14 acres on the National Weather Service property to conduct landspreading. The soil is being spread about 18 inches deep.
- Some of the PCS will remain at the landfill to cap the municipal solid waste. This material will be spread about 2 feet deep.
- At the National Weather Service property, trucks deposit the PCS, a bulldozer spreads it to 18 inches, and then a tractor tills the soil to allow for aeration.
- NOAA may also get a cultivator to till the soil to deeper depths. The current equipment only tills the top 8 or 9 inches.

Q: Will the tractor be left behind?

A: We've been asked that several times. We're not sure yet.

Comment: Many folks have expressed concerns that contaminated materials have been placed on virgin tundra.

A: NOAA will post a copy of the State risk assessment on the RAB website and make it available to the public.

Q: Is there a concern that the PCS will be blown around?

A: If we place geo-jute on this area now, we will not be able to conduct further tilling. NOAA would like to till for another season to try to reduce the contaminants in the soil. The area will then be covered and reseeded. With tilling, volatiles are reportedly reduced by 60 or 70 percent in a year.

Comment: Given the cost options and the time constraints this alternative seems to be the best alternative. The Tribal Government sought EPA's advice on this issue and had them conduct a review of the Mitretek report. EPA reached the same conclusion that given the current funds and money that the landspreading/landfarming option was the best. The Tribal Government is glad to see that the monofill option was not pursued as it was seen as a non-active disposal option.

NOAA asked for input on whether the community would prefer to have the tilling continue next season or the area matted and seeded at the end of this season. If the matting is laid now it would not be pulled up next season, as placing the material down is a time consuming and expensive effort.

A: To keep the cost down, while maximizing the opportunity for attenuation, it might be best to continue tilling next year, place a snow fence (orange sticks) along the road to prevent blowing during the winter, and then cover the site with geo-jute at the end of next season.

Q: Do you plan to till this winter?

A: Depends on the weather, tilling might be possible through November.

Q: If the community sees a lot of blowing around, then could the matting be placed down?

A: It might be too late in the season.

UPDATE 10X RULE AND CRITICAL WATER MANAGEMENT AREA (CWMA)

- CWMA is the area required by the state to allow NOAA to apply for the ten times rule. This area is larger than the area of contamination because of groundwater flow patterns.
- The proposed ten times rule area was previously larger. The state was opposed to a larger area as requested by TDX. The state wants the ten times rule area to only contain areas of contamination. At the last RAB meeting there was much discussion about this issue and discontent with the NOAA proposal. A subcommittee was formed to develop a new proposal for the CWMA.
- The subcommittee met in August and came up with a new CWMA proposal to submit to the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- The CWMA boundary is still up for debate. DNR needs to hold a public meeting on island before a final determination can be made about the location of the area.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- GRO and DRO contamination was found at the Cascade Building. Tetra Tech and BSE will be excavating this contamination and the PCS will be landspread.

- The sheet metal building between the Machine Shop and Equipment Shed will be demolished due to structural integrity issues. Tetra Tech and BSE will do this work.
- After this work is finished, most remediation on St. Paul will be complete. Next year NOAA only expects to be completing the landspreading of PCS and groundwater monitoring.

Q: Are the saltwater well buildings going to be removed?

A: The wells are closed, but the buildings are considered a part of the Historic District. NOAA does not intend to remove these buildings.

COAST GUARD LORAN STATION GROUNDWATER UPDATE

- High Vacuum Extraction (HVE) system began operating in February 1999. System was shut down in 2003 with ADEC approval. Centrifuge used to separate fuel and water. Recovered 1,824 gallons of fuel which were shipped off island. Treated 1.7 million gallons of groundwater.
- Groundwater sampling occurs every September and will continue for several years. To date have not found any contaminants in the ground water.
- The system is being disassembled for shipment.
- The cost to conduct this was about \$2 million, most expensive Coast Guard project in AK to date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Scoria was placed on top of wood debris at Icehouse Lake. TDX was going to burn this material, but now it can't. NOAA inquired whether it would be okay for the agency to burn the material and then remove the ash. The City stated that this type of burning is generally coordinated with the volunteer fire department. TDX commented that this approach has its approval.

PRESERVE AMERICA

- An Executive Order that is currently unfunded. However, if a community becomes designated as a Preserve America Community the future chances of receiving funding are greater. The Economic Development Agency may also have funding.
- Karin Holser is working with St. George community to develop an application. NOAA encourages the islands to work together otherwise they could be competing for the same money.
- NOAA has spent a lot of time collecting historic photos and images from public and private holdings. The State Historic Preservation Office has told NOAA they must make these materials publicly available. NOAA will ultimately find a repository for these items.
- Some of the items already have been shared with locals to aid them in pursuing initiatives such as Preserve America. NOAA would like to assist with developing this initiative and displays with input from the communities.

RAB MEMBERSHIP

- RAB Membership was confirmed by Anthony Philemonoff.

September 17, 2004 Updated St. Paul RAB Membership	
Member	Representing
Jason Bourdukofsky	St. Paul at large
Aquilina (Debbie) Lestenkof	St. Paul at large
Elary Gromoff	The Aleut Corporation
Myron Melovidov	City of St. Paul
John R. Mercurief	City of St. Paul
Victor Mercurief, Sr.	TDX, Co-Chair
Ron Philemonoff	TDX
Anthony Philemonoff	Alternate for Victor, non-voting
Phil Zavadil	Tribal Government
Richard Zacharof	Tribal Government
Mark Ridgeway	USCG, non-voting
Bernie Denno	NOAA, Co-Chair, non-voting
Louis Howard	State of Alaska, non-voting

CLOSING REMARKS; TENTATIVE DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

- A joint St. George/St. Paul RAB meeting will be held during the week of December 6th in Anchorage.